

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (original) Microporous filter plate to be used in a suction drier, particularly in a capillary filter, the filter plate of which contains a membrane with a mean pore size of about 1 micrometer, a substrate, whereon the membrane is positioned, and a recessed area in the interior of the filter plate with cavities for a filtrate and for a backwash liquid, and also provided with at least one outlet or inlet for the filtrate and for the backwash liquid outlet/inlet as well as with mounting holes or hubs for attaching the filter plate to the suction drier, characterized in that the recessed area in the interior of the filter plate is provided with supporting elements, in which the ratio between the longest dimension and the shortest dimension is in maximum 1.5 in the cross-section parallel to the filtration surface of the filter plate, for allowing liquid to flow essentially simultaneously and easily in all directions and for the structure of the filter plate being durable for stresses based on pressure peaks.

2. (currently amended) Filter plate according to the claim 1, characterized in that the supporting elements in the recessed area contain 10 to 50 %, ~~advantageously 15 to 30 %~~, of the total area of

the recessed area.

3. (currently amended) Filter plate according to ~~the claim 1~~
~~or 2~~ claim 1, characterized in that the supporting elements are so
positioned, that the distance between the supporting elements is
maximum 75 millimeter from an edge of a supporting element to an
edge of another supporting element.

4. (currently amended) Filter plate according to ~~any of the~~
~~preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that the supporting
element has a curvature shape.

5. (currently amended) Filter plate according to ~~any of the~~
~~preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that the supporting
element is a circular button in shape.

6. (currently amended) Filter plate according to ~~any of the~~
~~preceding claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, characterized in that the
supporting element is of an angular shape.

7. (currently amended) Filter plate according to ~~the claims 6~~
claim 6, characterized in that the supporting element is a square

in shape.

8. (currently amended) Filter plate according to ~~the claim~~
claim 6, characterized in that the supporting element is a triangle
in shape.

9. (currently amended) Filter plate according to ~~the claim~~
claim 6, characterized in that the supporting element is a hexagon
in shape.

10. (currently amended) Filter plate according to ~~any of the~~
~~preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that the supporting
element is part of the substrate.

11. (currently amended) Filter plate according to ~~any of the~~
~~preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that the mean pore size
in the substrate is between 5 and 90 micrometer, preferably between
10 and 60 micrometer.

12. (currently amended) Filter plate according to ~~any of the~~
~~preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that the porosity range
in the substrate is 25-80 %, ~~preferably 40-50 %~~, of the total

volume of the substrate.

13. (currently amended) Filter plate according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that the membrane and the substrate is made of the same material.

14. (currently amended) Filter plate according to ~~any of the preceding claims 1 to 12~~ claim 1, characterized in that the membrane and the substrate is made of different materials.

15. (currently amended) Filter plate according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that at least one ceramic material is used for manufacturing the filter plate.

16. (currently amended) Filter plate according to ~~any of the preceding claims 1 to 14~~ claim 1, characterized in that at least one sintered metal is used for manufacturing the filter plate.

17. (currently amended) Filter plate according to ~~any of the preceding claims 1 to 14~~ claim 1, characterized in that at least one plastics material is used for manufacturing the filter plate.

18. (currently amended) Filter plate according to ~~any of the preceding claims 1 to 14~~ claim 1, characterized in that at least one carbon based material is used for manufacturing the filter plate.

19. (new) Filter plate according to the claim 2, characterized in that the supporting elements in the recessed area contain 15 to 30 % of the total area of the recessed area.

20. (new) Filter plate according to claim 12, characterized in that the porosity range in the substrate is 40-50 % of the total volume of the substrate.